



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

March 24, 2005

News Release

MS-13 GANG MEMBER DEPORTED BY ICE AFTER FINISHING HAGERSTOWN PRISON SENTENCE

BALTIMORE-- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention and removal officers deported an MS-13 gang member to El Salvador Saturday who had just completed a prison sentence at the Maryland Correctional Institution in Hagerstown, Md.

The deportation was part of ICE's Operation Community Shield, a nationwide crackdown on the violent street gang "Mara Salvatrucha" or MS-13.

Jose Martinez-Martinez first entered the United States in 1996 under an A3 visa that was based upon his mother's employment as the housekeeper for the ambassador of El Salvador.

While here Martinez-Martinez was convicted of attempted robbery, grand larceny, malicious destruction of property, and possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

He later attempted to apply for Temporary Protected Status, but was turned down because of his felony convictions.

While incarcerated, ICE placed an administrative law enforcement detainer on Martinez-Martinez to advise the correctional facility that ICE would take him into custody when his sentence was completed. ICE detention and removal officers took him into custody Feb. 18 and he was issued a Final Administrative Order of Removal based upon his felony convictions.

Martinez-Martinez was interviewed at the Consulate of El Salvador March 8 and he admitted at that time to being a member of MS-13.

"We have zero tolerance for foreign born criminal gang members under Operation Community Shield," said Calvin McCormick, who leads ICE's detention and removal efforts in Maryland. "Our goal is to use our administrative and criminal authorities to immediately impact MS-13 and reduce their influence in communities."

Operation Community Shield is a nationwide ICE anti-gang initiative designed to disrupt, dismantle, and prosecute violent gang members and their organizations by employing the full range of authorities and investigative tools available to ICE. Under this initiative, ICE is employing its broad immigration authorities (both criminal and administrative) against gang members, as well as its customs authorities in targeting narcotics smuggling, money laundering, and in seeking the forfeiture of assets.

This initiative also involves strong partnerships and cooperation with existing federal, state, and local anti-gang efforts. Such partnerships are essential to the success of the initiative and to ensure officer safety during operations. ICE maintains close working relationships with all of Baltimore's law enforcement agencies and departments to ensure all members of the communities are protected through the uniformly applied, targeted criminal and administrative immigration law enforcement.

The initial target of Operation Community Shield is MS-13, which is one of the largest and most violent street gangs in the United States. The majority of MS-13 members are foreign nationals in this country illegally, making them subject to ICE's criminal and administrative immigration authorities. ICE plans to use these immigration tools to arrest, prosecute, and where appropriate, remove these individuals from the United States. ICE coordinates all deportations with the foreign nations receiving these individuals.

At the same time, many MS-13 members derive income from the sale of illegal drugs and other contraband, making them subject to ICE's counter-drug, financial, and other investigative authorities. Seizure and forfeiture of funds, property, and other illegally-derived assets will be another component of the initiative.

Over the coming months, ICE will be using all these tools in a combined fashion with the ultimate goal of crippling MS-13 organizations across the country. Ultimately, Operation Community Shield will also target other violent street gangs.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.